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9-5-1868

Letter from Sarah Whitney, to Anne Whitney, Rome, Italy, 1868 September 27

Sarah Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

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What I was going to say a week ago when I was
so startlingly interrupted, by the word that Edw. &
Carrie were at the door on their way to Phila., was,
that it seemed to me that my time for "writing sermons
& growing eloquent" had come - & perhaps my
"Dear Bo." I shd have proved my assertion
if those 15 minutes I had counted upon
had been granted. But - denied
you have forever lost the whole - for
the week has given me leisure for over
much digestion of Yr combined counsel.
& I doubt if I can ever grow voluble
again - & if not voluble, how eloquent?
When I was lamenting yesterday how my
Sunday & frequent week day occupations &
pleasures were gone under a terrible ex-
tinguisher, somebody suggested that
I shd write for the tomorrow's mail that
I had proposed shd be, so full, "My eyes
are very well I thank you," & nothing more.
Fearing however that you might not
approve of the expenditure of 2 yetts on so
small a joke, I resist the temptation
& begin my sheet in canonical style,
hoping that I may be able to say some-
thing upon it that you will think worthy
the use of a very respectable pair of eyes.
But first I must protest against the sup-

As I forgot to ask Carrie to make her contribution to this letter to day, & as tomorrow & every succeeding day till Thurs. will be full of business for her, I fear you will have ~~some~~ ~~to~~ find this poor fare a more liberal compliance with yr requests than either of you looked for. Mrs Brigham was invited the other day by an Uncle from Michigan to return with him this week - & the preparations wh. her acceptance necessitate are keeping them all busy - We shall all miss her friendly attentions & Carrie looks quite sober over the anticipated loneliness. As there are a good many friends to claim a visit we shall not look for her return before next summer.

Carrie's voyage to Phila. was not all her fancy had painted it - or rather the sea sickness wh. she endured through it all, was more than she had reckoned upon. Edw & Kate Howard, her companions, suffered less. They spent 24 hours in "moving" Phil - as many more in Brooklyn & N.Y. & reached home safely in a little over 100 hours from the time they left it in good spirits & improved health. Maggie who helped Mrs Brigham & Louise ~~in~~ ^{at} their house keeping duties in the absence of the mistress, took up her quarters here on the day of their return. The first companionship is Susan - & goes to Boston when the

is a break in the clouds. If she can endure our dull quiet another week, I shall be amazed. There must be an outdoor glory this week that will tempt to roving. From the house we can see that Mr. & Woodbin have put on their gay robes & that the woods are tinged with yellow. On Tues. last, though there had been frosts to blacken the squash & melon vines, there was no hint of Autumn in the general landscape. It would be pleasant to look upon the W.H. hills when the sun comes out of these clouds - perhaps quite as pleasant to look upon those of eastern Mass. - & pleasant still to look through yr eyes my beloved Anne & Addy upon those Tyrolese ones ~~that~~ whose glories will be revealed to our waiting eyes in a few days if not tomorrow.

Tues. a.m. 29 - "Tomorrow" brought the faithful word so full & good & delightful in its "gossips". Told that I were not obliged to send such a mean return. I must return to my old way or not write at all. I like theorizing about letter writing as little as I do about some other things, & where there's nothing to condense of course the condensation must be less than nought. I do beg our dear Addy not to deprive us of the untold & immeasurable good her letters always are whether she be a "trespasser of a grave nature" or no. We can't comprehend the intellectual or moral judgment that labels her. I haven't time this morning to say a good many things that crowd upon me, only to send the great love of Father, Mother & all & to say that all are improving. I am glad that Kate's word goes with this to redeem it - May it reach you in due time & take with it some of the sunshine that gladdens our eyes & hearts this snow. I trust that Don or Dea (whatever the title was) Fochler did his duty & that the expected letter from the Mts reached you - though it was but the relation of a disaster, it varied the monotony of my effusions. I was sorry to find no "a" on the envelope. It should have arrived in Munich 4 days after the preceding fortnight - the preceding one having been sent ~~that time~~ so many days too early.

Most lovingly yr Sarah

Recd-17-68
Lancet & Co

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VERVIERS. B
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EMANCO

Miss Anne Whitney.

Care Freeborn & Co.

Rome.

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